

PATENT

Atty. Dkt. No. ATT/2003-0189

REMARKS

In view of the following discussion, the Applicants submit that none of the claims now pending in the application are anticipated under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 102. Thus, the Applicants believe that all of these claims are now in allowable form.

I. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 6, 7 AND 12 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner has rejected claims 6, 7 and 12 in the Office Action under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. 2005/0184853, published on August 25, 2005, hereinafter "Payne." The Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Payne teaches a method and system for information security. A personal computer is responsive to the presence of an authorized user to transmit release signals from a first CPU to a second CPU to cause the second CPU to effect the release of a locking mechanism controlling access to drawers of a desk or filing cabinet for example. (See Payne, Abstract).

The Examiner's attention is directed to the fact that Payne fails to teach or to suggest the novel concept of an arrangement or method of indicating a status of a target to an entity that attempts to communicate with the target comprising governing communication to the entity of the target's status, the status describing at least the target's present and future ability to communicate with the entity, as positively claimed by Applicants' independent claims 6 and 12. Specifically, Applicants' independent claims 6 and 12 recite:

6. An arrangement for indicating a status of a target to an entity that attempts to communicate with the target, the arrangement comprising:

at least one sensing device configured to provide sensing information concerning the target's status in response to an action of the target with respect to the sensing device, wherein the target includes a person;

a monitoring device, configured to receive the sensing information from the at least one sensing device, and to govern communication to the entity of the target's status, the status describing at least the target's present and future ability to communicate with the entity, wherein the status includes an indication of whether the person is present or absent;

wherein the monitoring device includes a qualifying portion configured to consult an index that associates entity identifiers with an authorization level of

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corresponding entities, and to qualify the communication of the target's status to the entity based on the indicated authorization level of the entity;

wherein a given sensing device is dedicated to only providing the sensing information to the monitoring device; and

wherein the person must explicitly perform a presence-related action in order to cause the given sensing device to provide the sensing information. (Emphasis added).

12. A method of indicating a status of a target to an entity that attempts to communicate with the target, the method comprising:

automatically providing sensing information concerning the target's status in response to an action of the target with respect to a sensing device, wherein the target includes a person;

based on the sensing information from the at least one sensing device, governing communication to the entity of the target's status, the status describing at least the target's present and future ability to communicate with the entity, wherein the status includes an indication of whether the person is present or absent;

consulting an index that associates entity identifiers with an authorization level of corresponding entities;

qualifying the communication of the target's status to the entity based on the indicated authorization level of the entity;

wherein a given sensing device is dedicated to only providing the sensing information to the monitoring device; and

the providing step includes providing the sensing information in response to an explicitly presence-related action that the person must perform in order to cause the given sensing device to provide the sensing information. (Emphasis added).

In one embodiment, the Applicants' invention teaches a method of indicating a status of a target to an entity that attempts to communicate with the target comprising governing communication to the entity of the target's status, the status describing at least the target's present and future ability to communicate with the entity. For example, when an entity (i.e. customer) wants to call a target (i.e. an employee) a target's status may be communicated to the entity. (See e.g., Applicants' specification, paragraphs [0039] – [0049], [0081]). However, the amount of information associated with the target's status that is communicated to the calling entity may be limited or "governed." (See e.g., Applicants' specification, paragraphs [0050], [0093]).

Payne fails to anticipate the Applicants' invention because Payne fails to teach or to suggest a method of indicating a status of a target to an entity that attempts to communicate with the target comprising governing communication to the entity of the

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target's status, the status describing at least the target's present and future ability to communicate with the entity. Payne only teaches that a personal computer is responsive to the presence of an authorized user to transmit release signals from a first CPU to a second CPU to cause the second CPU to effect the release of a locking mechanism controlling access to drawers of a desk or filing cabinet for example. (See Payne, Abstract). At best, Payne only teaches that presence is detected of an authorized user. Notably, Payne does not teach or suggest that this status information is communicated with an entity (i.e. customer) or that the communication of the target's status is governed because Payne does not teach or suggest communicating presence information to any entity (i.e. customer). Therefore, Payne clearly fails to anticipate the Applicants' independent claims 6 and 12.

Moreover, dependent claim 7 depends from independent claim 6 and recites additional limitations. As such, and for the exact same reason set forth above, the Applicants submit that claim 7 is also patentable and not anticipated by Payne. As such, the Applicants respectfully request the rejection be withdrawn.

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Conclusion


Thus, the Applicants submit that all of these claims now fully satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §102. Consequently, the Applicants believe that all these claims are presently in condition for allowance. Accordingly, both reconsideration of this application and its swift passage to issue are earnestly solicited.

If, however, the Examiner believes that there are any unresolved issues requiring the issuance of a final action in any of the claims now pending in the application, it is requested that the Examiner telephone Mr. Kin-Wah Tong, Esq. at (732) 530-9404 so that appropriate arrangements can be made for resolving such issues as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

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